

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SY-05 EB-07 SP-02 TRSE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4750

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1178

FOR TUMMINIA/ARA/CAR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN, GY  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNDERSECRETARY HABIB: SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

REF: GEORGETOWN 1175

1. SUBJECTS WHICH WILL BE OF CENTRAL INTEREST TO PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS IN THEIR TALKS WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB ARE: US-GUYANA RELATIONS, GUYANA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR US ASSISTANCE, AND THE GOG'S DESIRE TO ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL. ALSO, BURNHAM AND/OR WILLS WILL TALK ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE STATE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND PROSPECTS FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. THE APPROACHES THEY MIGHT TAKE TO ISSUES INVOLVING THE US ARE OUTLINED BELOW.

2. US-GOG RELATIONS. DESTABILIZATION CONCERNS HERE HAVE RECEDED STEADILY UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENS TO AROUSE THEM, WILL NOT BE A TOPIC OF PRIMARY INTEREST; HOWEVER, BURNHAM AND OTHER LEADERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE US ADMINISTRATION TOWARD A "SOCIALIST" GUYANA. THE UNDER SECRETARY MIGHT ADDRESS THIS BY TALKING OF THE US POSTURE AND POLICIES  
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TOWARD THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND THE CARIBBEAN IN PARTICULAR. HE MIGHT SHOW AWARENESS OF GUYANA'S GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

3. GUYANESE LEADERS WILL RAISE THE QUESTION OF GUYANA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND WILL INQUIRE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ABOUT:

A. BUDGETARY AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT.

BURNHAM, WILLS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE FRANK HOPE ARE NOT UNDER ILLUSION THAT THE US CAN PROVIDE DIRECT HELP ON THIS NOW, BUT MAY SEEK US SUPPORT FOR LESS STRINGENT CONDITIONS OR ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL SOURCES SUCH AS THE IDB AND IMF.

B. BURNHAM AND WILLS HAVE BOTH REQUESTED US SUPPORT ON LOANS APPLICATIONS PENDING IN THE IDB AND WILL AGAIN INQUIRE ABOUT THIS. THEIR TOP PRIORITY IS A \$62 MILLION LOAN FOR THE THE MAHAICA-MAHAICONY-ABARY WATER MANAGEMENT (IRRIGATION) PROJECT.

C. GUYANESE LEADERS ARE PLEASED THAT US AID PLANS NEW BILATERAL AID PROJECTS. BURNHAM, HOWEVER, MAY URGE THAT PROCESSING OF PROJECTS BE EXPEDITED.

D. BURNHAM AND MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES HUBERT JACK WILL INQUIRE ABOUT THE CURRENT US ATTITUDE ON THE UPPER MAZARUNI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT, PERHAPS CASTING THEIR INQUIRY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORLD-WIDE SCARCITY OF ENERGY AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON ENERGY.

E. GOG OFFICIALS WILL PROBABLY RAISE THE QUESTION OF HOW TO ATTRACT FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT TO GUYANA. A DRAFT INVESTMENT CODE IS NEARLY READY FOR ANNOUNCEMENT. SOME OFFICIALS ARE SOMEWHAT UNREALISTIC IN THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL IN VIEW OF GUYANA'S IMAGE IN THE US AND THE LIMITED RANGE OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES HERE.

F. THE TERMINATION OF THE US-GUYANA ATKINSON FIELD  
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(TIMEERHI) AIR BASE AGREEMENT. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON THIS).

4. THE UNDERSECRETARY MIGHT WANT TO INQUIRE CONCERNING:

A. HOW BURNHAM AND OTHER GUYANESE LEADERS SEE FUTURE TRENDS IN US-GUYANA RELATIONS, I.E. GIVEN THE FOREIGN POLICY GOALS AND INTERESTS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, DO THEY ENVISAGE THE GOG COOPERATING WITH THE US IN ITS EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO NORTH-SOUTH AND OTHER PROBLEMS?

B. GUYANA'S BRAND OF SOCIALISM, INCLUDING ITS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY PERSPECTIVES.

C. THE STATE OF CARICOM AND THE PERSPECTIVE FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION.

D. GUYANA'S CURRENT RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.  
(WILLS CONSIDERS THE IMPROVEMENT IN GOG-BRAZIL RELATIONS TO BE ONE OF HIS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND IS PROUD OF IT.)

E. GUYANA'S VIEWS ON CUBA'S ROLE AND ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN. BURNHAM AND WILLS MAY GIVE DIFFERING ANSWERS ON THIS. DESPITE THE CONTINUING GOOD OFFICIAL

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GUYANA AND CUBA, THE GUYANESE  
APPEAR TO BE DEVELOPING CONCERN OVER CUBA'S POLITICAL  
AND MILITARY EXPANSIONISM.

F. THE INFLUENCE IN THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
PERSONS WHO APPEAR TO REGARD THE US AS "THE ENEMY."

5. AS COURTESY POINTS THE UNDER SECRETARY MIGHT COMPLI-  
MENT BURNHAM ON HIS RAPID RECOVERY OF HIS HEALTH AND  
VIGOR, AND LET WILLS --IN PRIVATE--KNOW THAT THE USG  
HAS NOTICED HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE US-GOG RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: ALMOST AS MUCH AS THEY NEED FINANCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, GUYANESE LEADERS WANT ATTENTION AND  
TO FEEL THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.  
THE UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE  
SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS AND SHOULD INCREASE OUR ABILITY TO  
EXERCISE INFLUENCE ON THEIR POLICIES.  
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